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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Raborn Ties: a Scrutiny Subject

By Drew Pearson

Adm. William F. Raborn is such a nice guy that the Senate will doubtless confirm him as Chief of Central Intelligence without much debate.

I happen to like the Admiral too. As a newspaperman, however, I must report that since Raborn's retirement he has been steeped in exactly the atmosphere that Dwight D. Eisenhower blasted so vigorously in his last message as President to the American people, when on Jan. 17, 1961, he warned of a dangerous alliance between the big military complex and the big defense complex.

The big defense complex from which Adm. Raborn came—Aerojet—General Tire—Polaris—went one step beyond Gen. Eisenhower's warning and also includes radio-television and newspapers.

In addition, Rep. Edward Hebert (D-La.) disclosed in a congressional probe of defense lobbying that Aerojet employed 63 admirals, generals and other retired officers, of whom 26 gave identical evasive answers dictated by Aerojet when asked whether they had lobbied for defense contracts. Rep. Hebert never did get a real answer on this point.



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Raborn and Aerojet

Adm. Raborn was in charge of the Polaris missile program for the Navy from 1955 to 1963 and immediately upon retirement walked over to the company that had the chief Polaris contract—Aerojet—to become its vice president in charge of Polaris production in California. He was not, however, one of those grilled by Rep. Hebert.

Relations between the Navy and Aerojet were so chummy during part of Raborn's regime in the Navy that it has been difficult for Congressmen and Government accountants to fathom where the Government's business stopped and Aerojet's began.

The House Armed Services Committee discovered, for instance, that the Navy placed \$48 million in buildings on Aerojet property from 1946 to 1952, and since the property could not readily be removed, it reverted to Aerojet.

"This is a heads-I-win, tails-you-lose proposition," commented Rep. William Bray (R-Ind.).

Adm. Raborn was not in charge of the Polaris program at that time, but Dan Kimball, now president of Aerojet, was then Assistant Secretary and Secretary of the Navy.

Later, Adm. Raborn was in charge of the Polaris program when the Defense Department permitted Aerojet to charge up the \$205,000 cost of a cafeteria to the taxpayers, even though Rep. Porter Har-

dy (D-Va.) showed that the cafeteria showed a profit of \$71,000.

News Monopoly

This defense contractor background of the new Chief of Central Intelligence is important for the following reasons:

- Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) has exposed some of the secret links between big business and the CIA. There have been others, including the manner in which CIA arranged for tax-free business funds to go into an anti-Israel, pro-Arab organization in the Middle East at a time when the White House was trying to keep peace in the Middle East; and how CIA siphoned corporate funds into anti-Soviet radio broadcasts through Radio Free Europe at a time when the White House was trying to improve relations with Russia.

- The CIA operated through various business blinds to conduct secretly one of the worst catastrophes in recent American history—the Bay of Pigs landing on Cuba.

- The policy of General Tire-Aerojet regarding news monopoly is directly contrary to the policy of the Department of Justice.

The Justice Department of late has brought more antitrust suits against newspapers than at any other time in history. Simultaneously, here is what the defense complex from which Adm. Raborn goes

to CIA has been doing in this field: General Tire and Rubber, whose executives, the O'Neill family, were among Joe McCarthy's staunchest rooters, own RKO General, which owns and operates WOR and WOR-TV in New York, KHJ-TV in Los Angeles, WNAC-TV in Boston, WHBQ-TV in Memphis, CKLY-TV in Windsor, Ontario, WHCT-UHF-TV in Hartford and WGMS in Washington.

General Tire and Rubber, on top of this, has just acquired 48 per cent of the stock of the Schenectady Union Star.

Last year, Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) warned Congress of the manner in which some radio-TV empires owned by big defense contractors were influencing the defense budget and the problem of disarmament. He named, among others, the Radio Corporation of America, which owns and controls the National Broadcasting Co.

However, General Tire's purchase of a large slice of the Schenectady Union Star is the first time, so far as known, that a big defense contractor has also barged into the newspaper business on top of a TV empire.

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Drew Pearson will report on what Bobby Kennedy's dogs have done to his neighbors in McLean, Va.—over WTOP radio at 6:40 p.m. tonight.

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